

biennium it's a \$1.1 million, in total General Fund appropriation. See I am not against the arts in any way shape or form, I think the Legislature has done a good deal for the arts in Nebraska. For that reason I think, for one if you really wanted to spend this amount of money, which you are actually doing, you better spend it in some other place, and two, I think it is a tremendous dangerous precedent we signal to the society as a whole, that if you get the right people behind you, you can get your tax forgiven after you knew full well when you purchased it what it would be. Now obviously the major argument for this bill is the fact that the museum here in Lincoln, I can't, the name escapes me off the top of my head, the Sheldon Art Gallery, the... purchases there are exempt, that is good. I think it would be good policy to exempt art purchases at Joslyn from here on out, but I think to pass this bill after the fact is bad precedent and a bad mistake. I urge the body to vote against it and if there is any response, the introducer of this bill would prefer they could have the balance of my closing and then I would withdraw the bill. (sic)

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, please, followed by Senator Landis and Senator Lindsay. Senator Hall please.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you Mr. President and members, I appreciate Senator Moore's sharing of his time on the motion to return the bill to strike the enact clause. I appreciate the fact that he is going to let the body vote on it, up or down either way. The fact is that everything that Senator Moore laid out is true, that this is an issue that there is a purchase of art by the Joslyn regard to the collection that was on loan there by the Exxon Corporation and that the purchase was in the neighborhood of four to five million dollars. With that went the cost of sales tax that, at the point in time that the agreement was reached was applicable. The contract is spread out over five years, the first payment has been made, sales tax on that has been paid. What LB 705 does is says that from this point forward, as Senator Moore had asked that any purchases related to the purchase of art in the State of Nebraska be exempt from the sales tax. No other state in the nation, no other state in the nation levies a sales tax on the purchases of art that go into a not-for-profit museum such as the one that Joslyn has. The Sheldon gallery that he spoke of very accurately is related to the University, so it is exempt as it should be, and I think that really the only other fine art museum in the state, and I don't say this in any derogatory manner with other museums, but